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BASEL CONVENTION

Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Eleventh meeting
Geneva, 3–6 September 2018
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Organizational matters: organization of work

Scenario note for the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The present scenario note is intended to assist representatives in preparing for the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal by communicating information regarding initial planning activity and expectations for the meeting.

II. Objective and possible outcomes of the meeting

2. The objective of the meeting is the consideration and possible adoption of two sets of decisions pertaining to the following:

(a) Matters to be considered by the Open-ended Working Group pursuant to decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;

(b) The draft work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2020–2021.

3. Pursuant to decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting, the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting, among other things, is expected:

(a) To consider a draft compilation of information related to the indicators in the strategic framework (item 3 (a) (i) of the provisional agenda);

(b) Regarding the development of guidelines for environmentally sound management (item 3 (a) (ii) of the provisional agenda):

(i) To review the progress made in the implementation of the work programme of the expert working group on environmentally sound management;

(ii) To consider the draft documents developed by the expert working group on environmentally sound management;

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(c) Regarding technical guidelines (item 3 (b) (i) of the provisional agenda):

(i) To consider comments and information relating to a review of provisional low persistent organic pollutant content values in the general technical guidelines referred to in decision BC-13/4, and other technical guidelines, as appropriate;

(ii) To update the general technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants and prepare or update specific technical guidelines with regard to the chemicals listed in Annexes A and C to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants by decisions SC-8/10, SC-8/11 and SC-8/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, including the following:

a. Establishment of levels of destruction and irreversible transformation for the chemicals necessary to ensure that, when disposed of, they do not exhibit the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants specified in paragraph 1 of Annex D to the Stockholm Convention;

b. Determination of which disposal methods constitute environmentally sound disposal as referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention;

c. Establishment, as appropriate, of the concentration levels of the chemicals in order to define for the Stockholm Convention low persistent organic pollutant content as referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Convention;

(iii) To consider comments on the technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention, and suggestions for amendments to those guidelines from the expert working group;

(iv) To consider the draft updated technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) and on specially engineered landfill (D5);

(v) To consider whether the technical guidelines on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8) should be updated;

(d) To consider the types of wastes for which additional practical guidance on the development of inventories would be useful and prepare recommendations thereon for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting (item 3 (b) (ii) of the provisional agenda);

(e) To consider work that may be carried out on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents (item 3 (b) (iii) of the provisional agenda);

(f) To consider relevant options available under the Convention to further address marine plastic litter and microplastics and develop a proposal for possible further action, within the scope of the Convention and avoiding duplication with activities relating to the matter in other forums, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting (item 3 (b) (iv) of the provisional agenda);

(g) To consider further work that may be carried out in relation to waste containing nanomaterials (item 3 (b) (v) of the provisional agenda);

(h) To consider the application for the placement or removal of wastes in Annexes VIII and IX, as submitted by the Government of Norway on 2 June 2018, and any subsequent addendum to the application (item 3 (b) (vi) of the provisional agenda);

(i) To consult with the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance on the finalization of the guidance to improve the implementation of paragraph 11 of Article 6 of the Convention and on other matters as decided by the Committee (item 3 (c) (i) of the provisional agenda);

(j) Regarding the provision of further legal clarity (item 3 (c) (ii) of the provisional agenda):

(i) To provide guidance to the expert working group on the review of Annexes I, III and IV and related aspects of Annex IX to the Basel Convention;

(ii) To consider whether to review Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Convention;

(k) Regarding the Basel Convention Partnership Programme (item 3 (d) (i) of the provisional agenda):

(i) To consider a report from the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres on the implementation of activities listed in the work programme set out in the concept note on a follow-up partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment;

(ii) To consider progress made with, and provide guidance on the implementation of, the workplan of the working group of the household waste partnership established by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;

(l) To consider progress achieved with regard to the inclusion of Basel Convention wastes in the World Customs Organization Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (item 3 (d) (ii) of the provisional agenda);

(m) To consider the report by the Secretariat on the status of the implementation of decision BC-13/24 on the programme of work and proposed budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2018–2019 (item 3 (e) of the provisional agenda).

4. Pursuant to decision VI/36 (institutional arrangements), the Open-ended Working Group is expected to consider and agree upon the draft work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2020–2021 (item 4 of the provisional agenda).

III. Meeting agenda

5. The annotations to the provisional agenda for the meeting (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/1/Rev.1/Add.1) identify issues for discussion under each agenda item and the documents that pertain to that item. The working documents prepared identify the provisions of the Convention or the decisions of the Conference of the Parties that provide mandates for the matters discussed therein. They also identify possible actions to be taken by the Open-ended Working Group.

6. The proposed daily schedule for plenary sessions will be two 3-hour sessions per day (10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3 p.m.–6 p.m.). Pursuant to paragraph 9 of decision BC-13/17, on Monday, 3 September 2018, and Thursday, 6 September 2018, simultaneous interpretation into Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish will be provided in plenary sessions. Thanks to the generous financial support provided by the Government of Switzerland, one additional day of plenary sessions with interpretation will be provided on Tuesday, 4 September 2018. Provision for regional meetings on Sunday, 2 September 2018, has been made.

7. The meeting will begin on the morning of Monday, 3 September 2018, with opening formalities in plenary (item 1 of the provisional agenda).

8. The Open-ended Working Group will then adopt the agenda for the meeting (item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda), amended as appropriate, and agree on the organization of work (item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda).

9. The Open-ended Working Group will then take up matters related to its work programmes for 2018–2019 and 2020–2021 (items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda). The order in which the items or sub-items will be taken up at the meeting will be determined by the co-chairs in consultation with the Bureau. The usual practice is for high-priority items, which are more likely to require work in contact groups, to be taken up earlier in the meeting. For the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, items that are more likely to require work in contact groups will be taken up in plenary on Monday or Tuesday. Contact or drafting groups will be established as necessary to consider specific issues.

10. On Wednesday, 5 September 2018, there will be no plenary sessions. Contact or drafting groups will meet as needed in English only.

11. On Thursday, 6 September 2018, the contact or drafting groups will report to plenary on the outcome of their deliberations. The Open-ended Working Group will then take up the remaining items of the agenda.

12. It is expected that the Open-ended Working Group will adopt the report of the meeting (item 6 of the provisional agenda) on the afternoon of Thursday, 6 September 2018. In accordance with its usual practice, the Open-ended Working Group may wish to adopt those sections of the report that describe the conduct of the meeting until the end of the day on Tuesday, 4 September 2018,

making any amendments it deems necessary. Also consistent with its usual practice, the Open-ended Working Group may wish to agree that those sections of the report describing the Thursday plenary sessions will be prepared by the rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat, and incorporated into the final report under the authority of the co-chairs.